

LATE



Chair Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Keith-Agaran
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Wednesday, April 4, 2018
10:30 A.M.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1716 HD1 RELATING TO A YOUTH COMMISSION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

Young Progressives Demanding-Hawai'i (YPDA Hawaii), a member of the Common Good Coalition, representing nearly 600 registered members, consisting of community members, students, and other young people **strongly supports HB1716 HD1 relating to a youth commission.**

The youth are our future. That is why, the youth commission is so important. Bringing young people into the policy making process allows for their thoughts and ideas to be heard, giving them a voice in determining what direction the future should take. There are a lot of tough questions that still need to be addressed, questions that will not just go away that deal with issues and topics like Climate change/environmental concerns, homelessness/cost of living, aging population/Kupuna Care. Bringing young people to the table allows for more voices to be heard and together with stakeholders and decision makers, they would be able to help in finding new and innovative solutions, all the while developing into young leaders who are participating in these important discussions and understanding how everything works.

Even beyond this, the youth commission's outreach initiatives are going to be just as important. Reaching out to their communities, sharing their personal experiences, with these young voices telling the community how important it is to get involved as decisions are made every day that impact their lives, will be able to fight voter apathy. Even beyond that, they will be able to encourage further civic engagement through their testimonies by giving their contemporaries and their families hope and encouragement. That is why YPDA Hawaii **strongly supports HB1716 HD1 and requests for it to be passed through this committee.**

Thank you for your hard work and deliberation on this issue,

Jun Shin,
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